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**Sen. Garcia, Rep. Hune and Rep. Ward Applaud the  
Administration's Decision to Recommend the Reinstatement of  
M-59 Project Funding**

*Announcement Comes After Extensive Discussion and Public Input*

**LANSING** – Following months of deliberation, public input and negotiations, Sen. Valde Garcia, Rep. Joe Hune and Rep. Chris Ward today hailed the agreement between the Republican-controlled Legislature and the Granholm Administration which will recommend the restoration of previously deferred funding for the M-59 road project in Livingston County.

“This is good news for the residents of Livingston County,” Garcia, R-Howell, said. “We are one of the fastest growing communities in the state and as a result the heavy congestion creates traffic problems and safety issues for residents. I am glad to see that the Governor has reinstated the project.”

Earlier this year, Gov. Granholm and the Michigan Department of Transportation announced they were deferring 34 capacity road improvement projects across the state, including the M-59 road project, from I-96 to Old US-23.

The administration's willingness to include the project came following intense budget negotiations between the Governor and Legislative leadership.

“I am extremely pleased that our diligent communications with the administration did not fall on deaf ears,” Ward, R-Brighton, said. “The reinstatement of this important project assures the people of Livingston County that our state values its commitment to safe roads.”

The restoration of \$25 million in road project funding will allow for the completion of environmental clearance, design and final right-of-way acquisitions. The construction phase of the project has been deferred to a future Five Year Road & Bridge Plan.

The project was restored through significant public comment and concern on the safety of residents traveling on M-59.

**(More)**

"I am pleased that the M-59 project has been restored," Hune, R-Fowlerville, said. "We have continued to voice our concern for the importance of this project. With the amount of transportation funds previously spent for engineering and other pre-construction costs, it would have been a tremendous waste of taxpayer dollars to not complete the M-59 project in a timely manner."

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